

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 CU-02 AID-05 SAM-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 /088 W

----- 109587

P R 051345Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2840

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 0014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: QADHAFI ANNOUNCES STUDENT VIOLENCE IN BENGHAZI

TO NATIONAL CONGRESS

1. QADHAFI ANNOUNCED TO THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS WHICH HAS JUST OPENED THAT VIOLENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING STUDENTS TOOK PLACE IN BENGHAZI YESTERDAY, JANUARY 4. QADHAFI SAID THAT BLOOD HAD BEEN SHED. HE KNEW ABOUT STUDENTS HIMSELF, HAVING BEEN ONE NOT SO LONG AGO, AND HE DID NOT CARE WHAT THEY DID, EVEN IF THERE WERE VICTIMS, ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF. THE SERIOUS THING ABOUT THESE INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THEY HAD SPILLED OVER INTO THE CITY ITSELF. THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO AND PROPERTY DESTROYED. IT WAS A SHAME THAT ON THE EVE OF THE CONGRESS SOME ELEMENTS HAD ACTED IN A WAY WHICH WOULD GIVE FOREIGNERS A BAD IMPRESSION OF LIBYA.

2. COMMENT: ELECTIONS, PRESUMABLY RIGGED, HAVE BEEN HELD TO FORM NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR

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THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, AND THIS MAY BE ONE PROXIMATE

CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE, IN ADDITION TO QADHAFI'S UNPOPULARITY WITH STUDENTS IN GENERAL AND THOSE IN BENGHAZI IN PARTICULAR. THE NEWLY ELECTED HEAD OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT UNION WAS THE ONLY DELEGATE TO CHALLENGE QADHAFI DURING THE MORNING SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, PROPOSING THAT THE PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY BE CHOOSED BY THE CONGRESS, RATHER THAN APPOINTED BY QADHAFI. QADHAFI'S DECISION TO ANNOUNCE THE INCIDENTS HIMSELF IS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO PREVENT RUMORS ABOUT THE INCIDENTS FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO DETAILS.

CARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TRIPOL00014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760002-0835
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacxva.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI ANNOUNCES STUDENT VIOLENCE IN BENGHAZI TO NATIONAL CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006